THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) No such proposal has been received from any State Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Acquisition of agricultural land by Government

4585. SHRI BHUPENDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government acquire agricultural land from farmers for Public purposes only or for some other purposes also;

(b) what is the necessity of acquiring agricultural land from the farmers and not utilising it for years for the declared purposes and whether the farmers are being paid market value of their land;

(c) whether acquisition at very low prices and selling to private persons or parties at much higher prices does serve public purpose;

(d) whether not utilising acquired land for years together does not amount to grabbing of land from farmers; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) As informed by the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi, land is acquired by the Government for public purpose or for a public company under the relevant provisions of the Land Acquisition Act 1994. The Land acquisition Collector pays to the farmers market value of the land as on date of Section 4 notification in the award passed by him. The departments/bodies for which land is acquired are responsible for utilising it expeditiously.

(c) to (e) DDA has reported that it acquires undeveloped lands. The Delhi Development Act, 1957 enjoins upon the Authority to develop such lands before disposing of them. What some protion of such lands may be auctioned at a premium part of the acquired land is allotted at a subsidy. Such differential between the prices paid to farmers, and disposal prices, is due to the cost of development. the subsidies and premia on total cost. In view of the physical limitation of water availability, finances, etc., there is a time lag between acquisition of land and its ultimate disposal.

Transfer of parks to NDMC

4586. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to transfer all the parks and open spaces along the roads in New Delhi Municipal Committee areas to the NDMC:

(b) which authority has so far been looking after these parks and open spaces; and

(c) what are the reasons for the transfer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) As yet, no such decision has been taken.

(b) The open space/parks along the N.D.M.C. road are being maintained by New Delhi Municipal Committee except the open spaces on either side of Shantipath which are being maintained by C.P.W.D.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

Display of slogsn by DDA

4587. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has displayed some slogan like 'DDA stands for Quality' at several sites under its jurisdiction;